Slifka Center
Jewish Life at Yale

2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT

Enriching the lives of Yale students in a way that endures.
Dear Friends,

Looking back at Yale’s Jewish life over the past year conjures up the celebratory lyrics of Dayyeinu from the Passover seder. Had we navigated COVID as a vibrant community — it would have been enough for us. Had we completed a major renovation of our building — it would have been enough. Had we reached hundreds of Jewish students, and helped dozens travel to Israel — it would have been enough. And like Dayyeinu — we know that while each individual gift or accomplishment is meaningful, it’s the sum of them that makes this community truly flourish.

Writing now in late 2022, we can report successfully facing these challenges, emerging with profound organizational and communal health, and a growing ability to build on the foundation we built last year. This Annual Report shares some snapshots about what we did, how we did it, and why it matters.

A year ago, almost everything we did was outdoors, with services and meals under tents and canopies. As the weather cooled, “Slifka North” — an off-campus storefront — became our main base, at which we supplied Yale’s kosher food without a kitchen, built a Sukkah in a parking lot, and gathered constantly, constrained by occupancy limits. You can imagine our relief and excitement upon returning to 80 Wall Street for Commencement and Reunions just as the program year concluded!

Dayyeinu celebrates the completion of a difficult passage through the desert, and the arrival at a new place and time of possibility. In that same spirit we look back on the past year, with gratitude for the difficult terrain we traversed together — and forward to this coming year, with its boundless potential for what we and Yale’s Jewish students can and will create together. Each step of this journey was possible because of the hundreds of volunteers, staff, and students who believe in this community and gave so much to it, especially when the going got tough. We will always be grateful to them — and every generation of Jews at Yale will, knowingly or not, be in their debt.

We can already start to feel the excitement we can create with and for students in 2023 — and continue the tradition of strengthening this community for the years and generations to come. You’ll be hearing about the Slifka Legacy Drive as part of Hillel International’s Centennial Campaign and other opportunities to join us. We need you as partners as we move from the crises of COVID and renovation to the diligent work of creating a flourishing Jewish community worthy of the boundless potential of today’s and tomorrow’s Yale students.

We hope you enjoy this snapshot of the 2021-22 year, in all its challenges and accomplishments, and we look forward to continuing this journey together. 

Sincerely,

Uri Cohen
Executive Director

Rabbi Jason Rubenstein
Howard M. Holtzmann Jewish Chaplain

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### TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total # of student interactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual undergrads engaged at least once</td>
<td>677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual undergrads engaged at least six times</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual grad students engaged at least once</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of student interactions</td>
<td>6,965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SERVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates via public square programs</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates via Jewish education programs</td>
<td>671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates via Israel activities and trips</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals for Shabbat and Holidays</td>
<td>2,523</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**OUR PURPOSE**

- Warm celebrations of Shabbat and Jewish holidays
- Engaging explorations of Jewish texts and ideas
- Welcoming meals in our kosher dining hall
- Soulful expressions of Jewish religion and spirituality
- Constructive opportunities to engage with Israel
- Stimulating experiences with the arts
- Productive actions to make the Jewish values of kindness and justice real in the world
- Slifka Center advances the interests of Yale’s Jewish community in times of crisis and every day

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**Slifka Center**

*Jewish Life at Yale*

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**6,965** Total # of student interactions

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**227** Undergraduates via public square programs

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**677** Individual undergrads engaged at least once

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**178** Individual undergrads engaged at least six times

---

**251** Individual grad students engaged at least once

---

**671** Undergraduates via Jewish education programs

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**198** Undergraduates via Israel activities and trips

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**552** Undergraduates via one-on-one meetings

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**2,523** Meals for Shabbat and Holidays
Staff and students make latkes at the Slifka Hanukkah Party in Hopper College. A cohort of students from the Jewish Learning Fellowship Shabbat services outside in the Fall 2021 semester. Students at the Yom Kippur food drive last year. A collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building.  

2021-2022: Cultivating Cultural, Spiritual, Religious, and Intellectual Experiences

1. Shabbat services outside in the Fall 2021 semester
2. Getting ready for Shabbat dinner under the tent in the Fall 2021 semester
3. Students at the Yom Kippur food drive last year
4. A cohort of students from the Jewish Learning Fellowship
5. Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building
6. Staff and students make latkes at the Slifka Hanukkah Party in Hopper College
7. Staff and students hand out Shabbat boxes
8. Sukkot event at The Yale Farm
9. Students posing at the masquerade themed Slifka Formal
10. More fun at the annual Slifka Formal
11. Student leaders and staff at the Hillel Student Board Retreat at Lighthouse Point Park in the summer before the Fall 2022 semester
12. Students and staff welcome incoming first years on move-day
13. The first Shabbat dinner of the Fall 2022 semester finally back in our renovated building
14. Students pose for a picture at Slifka Fest
15. A student poses with Handsome Dan at the Slifka Fest carnival at the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester
Our Donors

$50,000+
Anonymous
Hillel International
David A. Messer
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation
Abigail S. Pogrebin and David Shapiro
Alan B. Slifka Foundation

$10,000-$49,999
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Joanne E. Hoffer and Lee J. Tawil
Amy Z. Persky and Phillip H. Waldoks

“We support Slifka Center because it inspires Yale’s Jewish students through Jewish learning, cultural activities, religious and spiritual growth. Its wonderful facility and superb staff leverage these together with kosher food to create strong community.”

– Rob Bildner ’72
Endowments and Prizes

Sidney ’81 MAH and Ann Altman Library Endowment Fund
The Robert ’59 and Louise Arias Yom Kippur Break-Fast Endowment Fund
Beit Midrash Endowment Fund
Bellin Scholarship Endowment Fund
Frank Bernstein ’61 Family Music Endowment Fund
The Elisa Spungen Bildner ’75 and Robert Bildner ’72 Israel Travel Grant Endowment Fund
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Goldman Family Programmatic Endowment Fund
Hauptman Arts and Media Arts Endowment Fund
Howard M. Holtzman Jewish Chaplain at Yale Endowment Fund
William ’29, ’65 MAH and Miriam Horowitz Judaica Project Endowment Fund
Rabbi Richard Israel Shabbat Table Endowment Fund
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Henry Kohn Lecture Endowment Fund
Littauer Student Engagement Fund
The Bernard and Norma Lytton Apples and Honey Kiddush Fund
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Marx Better Family Endowment Fund
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Noah Wellness Fund
Rabbi James Ponet Educational and Cultural Endowment Fund
Riesman Library Book Endowment Fund
Rosen Maintenance Fund
Rothko Endowment Fund
The Rose A. and Jack Schwartz Jewish Publication Fund, Endowed by Joseph B. Schwartz, ’YC ’62, in Memory of His Parents
Marilyn G. and Joseph B. Schwartz ’62 Endowed Fund for Israel Education
Arthur I. Shapiro Social Justice Endowment Fund
Alan Slifka Fellowship Endowment Fund
Sobotka Family Yom HaShoah Endowment Fund
Spungen Bildner Family Endowment Fund
Talpins Israel Program Endowment Fund
Eric Zahler ’72 and Karen Gantz Zahler Faculty Fellowship Endowment Fund
Norman Zolot ’41, ’47 JD Scholarship Endowment Fund
Charles and Lotty Zucker Art Prize Endowment Fund
The Eugene M. Zwillinger Memorial Seder Endowment Fund

Building Forward

Behind the Scenes: Renovation Snapshots

Uri Cohen and Rabbi Jason Rubenstein at the ceremonial groundbreaking – November 2020
Taking down the concrete wall that separated the kitchen from the dining hall – January 2021
The kitchen completely gutted – plumbing, flooring and all – February 2021

Plumbing and ceiling debris from the kitchen – February 2021
New kitchen concrete slab, with plumbing and electrical runs complete – April 2021
New terrace walls and drains being installed – July 2021

Steel and concrete going in to enclose the lower level courtyard – July 2021
Enclosure complete, starting to install floors, walls and lights – October 2021
Installing and waterproofing the skylight – April 2022

Slifka Center is grateful for the following Endowed Funds:
Student Groups

Jewish Yale students organize the following independent groups that connect with Slifka Center:

- AEPi - Alpha Epsilon Pi
- Challah 4 Hunger
- Egal Minyan
- Hillel Student Board
- Jewish Christian Bible Study
- JLSA - Jewish Law Student Association
- JStreetU
- Kehillah - Jewish Grad Student Organization
- Klezmer Band
- Krav Maga - Israeli Martial Arts
- Magevet - Jewish A Cappella Group
- PDLI - Peace and Dialogue Leadership Initiative
- Reform Chavurah
- Shibboleth - Student Literary Publication
- SOM JSA - School of Management Jewish Student Organization
- TAMID - Israel-Focused Consulting and Investment Club
- YFI - Yale Friends of Israel
- Yiddish Table (Tisch)
- YIHY - Young Israel House at Yale

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Michael Stern ’02
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Zachary Zabib ’22*
* Student representatives
Names in italics, board term ended 6/30/22
Names in bold, board term began 7/1/22

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Senator Joseph I. Lieberman ’64, ’67 LLB, P ’89
and Hadassah Lieberman P ’89
David Schizer ’90, LAW ’93

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Ziv Eisenberg, Managing Director
Rachel Leiken, Associate Jewish Chaplain
Rabbi Alex Ozer ’22 PhD and Lauren Steinberg, Co-Directors and Educators, OU-Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC)
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Hillel Rosenzweig, Development Associate
Elizabeth Squillace, Director of Finance
Jennifer Rogen Wallace, Director of Development
* Names in italics, outgoing staff
Names in bold, incoming staff

Student Groups
Did You Know...

- Slifka Center is an independent 501(c)3 organization (our EIN is 06-1257354) – gifts are fully tax deductible.
- Slifka does not receive any direct funding from Yale.
- Slifka covers 57% of all kosher and Jewish community dining costs. The Yale meal plan covers 43%.
- Slifka is the central Yale resource advancing the interests of Yale’s Jewish community in times of crisis (including the fight against rising antisemitism) and every day.
- Slifka relies heavily on charitable contributions to maintain its operations. We need your help!

Donate Now:

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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-1134
slifkacenter.org
SliKka.Center@yale.edu